

U.S. Department of Energy
Supplemental Environmental Impact

Statement:

Site Selection for the Expansion of the
Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Location: George County Senior Citizen's Center
7102 198 East
Lucedale, Mississippi

I N D E X

April 9, 2008

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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OSCAR HAVARD

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My name is Oscar Havard, and I live at 118 Jack Road in Lucedale, Mississippi, which is right within an eighth of a mile from the river. And all my adult life, what I wanted to have is a camp near the river. I wanted to live by the river.

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And recently I have sold my home and I have bought a camp by the river. And from what I can understand, they're fixing to come take the river away from my camp. Where I live at and where I fish at, when the river is at its normal stage during the spring and the summer, you barely can run your boat motor now. You can almost walk across the river.

And if they start taking fifty million gallons of water a day out of the river where I'm at, the part of the river that I use is going to be gone. And, I mean, I've invested a lot down there and I don't want the river to be destroyed, and I believe that's what's going to happen.

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And I guess that's all I've got to say. I'm -- I'm -- I'm against them putting the -- doing the salt dome and taking the water out of the Pascagoula River. Whatever they're doing up there,

1 I'm against it.
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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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DAYTON WHITES

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And, of course, I am very interested in -- of course, I'm on several of the conservation boards here in South Mississippi and also Mayor of the Town of Lucedale. And, of course, David came by and visited with me this morning. I have -- I think this is very informative.

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I think that I have learned a lot by talking to David and by coming by. And, like I say, I -- as you know, the whole area, basically, has been negative as far as this is concerned. I think that the people who are negative ought to come and -- and listen to what is said so they can have -- I don't think that the facts that people have gotten are the facts that really are.

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And like I say, my visit with David makes me look long and hard at whether it's right or wrong to do it. And I'm going to continue to do that. I've got some information left me that I'm going to read when I get back. Thank you.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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DARWIN MAPLES

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My name is Darwin Maples. I live here in this county. I am a retired judge. I was a judge for about thirty years here. Like I say, I was born and raised, living in the smokelands of George County.

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I know all about the streams and, you know, what affects them and things like that. The thing that I -- that I wanted to impress on everybody was that I feel like that if -- if our national -- and by the way, I'm a veteran. I served two years in the Pacific in World War II. I believe in our national defense.

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I believe in looking after things, regardless of what, you know. I think if it took sacrificing me and all of my land and everything else to help this nation defend itself, I would be for it, you know. I believe in that.

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But the thing that I think this country ought to do more than what we are doing right now is creating more of these ethanol plants where we can take our own produce, like timber and -- and -- that we have plenty of, and make ethanol across the south,

1 Mississippi, our own county here.

2 If we could do that, I think you would
3 save enough oil, you know, that's coming in now to
4 make up for everything that this procedure would give.
5 I think that's the first thing we ought to give more
6 thought to.

7 You see, you're going to spend over four
8 billion dollars on this operation. And if you would
9 just use just a third of that money to stimulate more
10 interest in the production of ethanol plants, I think
11 the savings there would be tremendous and beneficial.
12 I think that's one thing.

13 Another thing is that I was instrumental,
14 I was just part of the group, we have passed the
15 Scenic Stream Act in Mississippi, you know, in George
16 County here on our streams and the Pascagoula River
17 that's been declared a scenic stream. Black and Red
18 Creek and other creeks have been declared a scenic
19 stream.

20 And in the Act -- we held public hearings
21 and everything. The essence of that Act was to
22 protect the streams, protect them. And one thing is
23 we would not -- we would encourage the landowners to
24 use the standard forestry practices when you cut
25 timber. In other words, you wouldn't clear footage.

1 You would protect the land. And that's one of the
2 things that we -- we did.

3 Anyway, I think this is a violation of
4 that Act. I think it is. I think it will result in a
5 violation of it. I'm afraid that the erosion is going
6 to be a tremendous problem after this is done. I do.
7 And there's been several old people that have told me
8 they knew about the meeting. Some of them are up in
9 their nineties, and they told me would I please --
10 would I please. Very well.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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DORIS I. ALEXANDER

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I am Doris I. Alexander in George County, and I feel like that this program that was presented today has enlightened me. I have many concerns, and I still have concerns about getting millions of gallons of water from the Merrill River.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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RICHARD BECK

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10 All right. My name is Richard Beck. I am a
11 property owner on the Pascagoula River. And as a
12 result, we are very concerned about the quality of,
13 not only the river, but also the fishing, which is our
14 main activity since we have retired. Well, we're
15 simply opposed to it, is what it boils down to. Thank
16 you.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 JAMES NEWMIN

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5 My name is James Newmin. I'm from George
6 County, have lived here since 1966. I've lived on the
7 river since 1966. I've lived in Jackson County in
8 Pascagoula since 1965. I pretty well have made --
9 have been making my living off of it. I eat out of
10 the Pascagoula River and have sold catfish out of the
11 river for years, for a number of years.

12 Now, my -- my comment is that I am -- for
13 about five or six years, when we was in quality
14 engineering, we charted the Pascagoula River, the rise
15 and the fall of the Pascagoula River. And for a
16 number of years during the months of September and
17 October, the river almost dried up.

18 And to pull that much water from the
19 Pascagoula River during those -- those dry periods,
20 you almost dry the river up, because it was pretty low
21 during -- during that time anyway.

22 There is an alternative. You've got the
23 Tom Bigsby waterway system that comes from Tennessee
24 and empties into the Mobile Bay, and you've got the
25 Pearl River, which is probably no more -- no further

1 off than -- than the Pascagoula. And it would be a
2 good idea to look at those two systems rather than --
3 than to drain that one.

4 We have shrimp, what's called freshwater
5 shrimp. There is only two rivers in the -- in the
6 United States that has this type of shrimp. And they
7 can't stand the dry -- the river being dried up.

8 And another thing that I have got is
9 whenever I worked in quality engineering, we studied
10 the saltwater erosion factor from our cooling systems
11 on our ships. And you're going to have the same
12 erosion factor there. And if you have a problem in a
13 sensitive area between Pascagoula and Lucedale, you're
14 going to dump all that saltwater right back into the
15 Pascagoula River again. That's my comments.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 CHARLEY C. WALTERS

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5 I'm a former employee of the Mississippi Power
6 Company, retired. What -- what I have been concerned
7 about and tried to get an answer, and I haven't been
8 able to do it, I can't understand spending all these
9 millions of dollars on this salt dome, and all they're
10 doing is taking -- they're drilling a hole and taking
11 oil out of one well and pumping it into the salt dome.

12 It don't make sense to pump oil out of one hole and
13 put it in another hole.

14 They've got oil in the well already
15 superior. The oil company knows where all the oil is
16 at and probably sells some of it, too. We ought to
17 leave the oil where it's at and put ethanol in the
18 salt dome.

19 The oil company bid, I think, a hundred
20 twenty-eight billion last year and they got a
21 seventeen billion tax break. Thank you, ma'am.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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DORIS I. ALEXANDER

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Doris Alexander. All right. I -- I wanted to add to my statement earlier that I'm very much concerned that we local people need to be getting some training for some of the jobs that's going to be connected with this project. And we have a local college, and maybe something could be worked out between the people who come in and our local officials to get some programs going.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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EULA BECK

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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CLEM PARKER

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5 My name is Clem Parker, and my birth date is May
6 6, '27. And my most concern is the water flow of the
7 river south of where the pumping station will be.

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9 As you've already probably been told, most
10 of this county is poor people, and they use this river
11 as a recreation point because they don't have the
12 money to go to different locations at the reservoir
and stuff.

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14 And my concern is the amount of water
15 that's going to be taken out. And they've already
16 explained it to me, and I'm pretty well satisfied with
17 it. But one man is not going to make a decision on
18 what they're going to do with this petroleum oil. I
understand that.

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20 But, anyway, they should be very, very
21 concerned of the amount of water they're going to take
22 out of this river, because you have got low tide of
23 water coming down. And, of course, you've got the
24 winter floods and stuff that's going to have more
water.

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And my next concern would be the -- the

1 salinity or the salt content in the water that's going
2 to be pumped out of the salt dome itself that's going
3 out -- out to the Gulf. And I understand that, you
4 see. But I think -- this is one person's thinking --
5 that that brine should be diluted to a certain content
6 to keep from killing the fish or whatever is around
7 that discharge.

8 And I understand -- you don't have to
9 write this -- I understand you're going pretty far
10 out. But that water is going to be pretty salty, too.
11 And what kind of effect is it going to have on the sea
12 -- seabeds and your grass or seaweed or plants in the
13 sea that our fish and stuff feeds on, plus what impact
14 is it going to be on life itself, fish life and stuff,
15 you see? That's my concern.

16 I'm not against this. I'd be a fool to be
17 against something that's going to -- that's going to
18 come in if we need it. But oil is a precious
19 commodity. But to me, our most precious commodity is
20 our water.

21 Now, you can go up around Atlanta and they
22 can tell you that for -- for a sure thing. That won't
23 happen to us down here, but it's used for the people
24 that's using it for recreation, see. We need to take
25 care of our streams, and that is my concern.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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BARBARA COCHRAN

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Barbara Cochran. I'm concerned over the river flow of the Pascagoula River. And, of course, I'm also concerned, you know, what it might do to the environment. I've listened to what they're saying in that they will not harm the environment. And we still are concerned.

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We want -- Brady and I would like to see our grandchildren and our great grandchildren be able to enjoy the Pascagoula River as much as we have enjoyed it. We think it's such an asset to our county, and we do not want anything to happen to this -- to the nature as we have enjoyed it and others have enjoyed it here in George County.

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And we ask that if you do consider what you have proposed, that you will follow the guidelines that you have explained to us. We appreciate your coming and giving us an opportunity to express our concerns.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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AMON MERRITT

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My comment is why they don't pull it out of
Thompson Creek at Richton rather than pulling it out
of the Pascagoula River Basin. That's basically all
I have.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 LARRY STUBBS

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5 My name is Larry Stubbs. I am an overall
6 opponent of the entire project. I feel the money is
7 not being spent in the best possible manner, that
8 renewable alternative energy deserves a lot more
9 attention and a lot more money than it's getting,
10 because the money is being spent on a nonrenewable
11 source like a gas source.

12 So my purpose here today was just to see,
13 to better inform myself about what is going to go on.
14 I know that money talks and that more money is leaning
15 towards fuel reserves than towards nothing at all. So
16 I'll accept the fact that this will happen. And
17 I just would like to inform myself about when it
18 happens how it will happen. Thank you.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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GAIL MERRILL

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I just -- I just don't want a salt dome here.

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Can you give me better benefits for it than against

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it? I think we need the water. Last year it was so

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dry it would be three or four weeks before we got a

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drop of rain. If it's that way this year and they

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drain all the water out of it, what are we going to

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do? And it's going to mess up our wildlife and stuff.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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JANET SMITH

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I -- I feel -- I feel like that the Pascagoula River is one of our best recreational and wildlife areas and is one of the -- well, in the nation, is one of the best in the nation. And I'm concerned that this project could affect the tourism situation that we're working to provide in our area.

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I love to go up the Merrill River on the boat, and I would hate to see any problems with -- that would affect the boating area or would drive the wildlife out into the nearby area. And I just feel like that this is something that they haven't researched enough before they try. It sounds -- sounds scary. Thank you.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 GREG REEVES

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5 My name is Greg Reeves. My main concern is the
6 flow of the river. You know, they're going to pull a
7 lot of water out of the river, and we've had a dry
8 spell for five years. I don't -- I don't know if it
9 can withstand another pull on the river.

10 Now, my main comment is if the government
11 could help maybe force Chevron in Pascagoula to get
12 their water out of the Gulf instead of getting it from
13 where there's a pipeline that goes there and goes
14 straight to Chevron.

15 Back in the '70s when they built it,
16 supposedly when the river stage got low, they would
17 close that valve to maintain the river stage. As far
18 as I know, they never turned it off. You know, even
19 when the river was almost under 1.1, almost under a
20 foot last year in the summer, it kept right on sending
21 water down to it.

22 And the way Chevron, and not only Chevron
23 -- they just happen to be the one on the Coast -- you
24 know, all the oil companies are making record profits.
25 It looks like they could pump the water out of the

1 Gulf. They're sitting right on the Gulf and take the
2 salt out and use that water rather than pull it out of
3 the river. The environmental part don't really
4 concern me. I trust the government knows what's been
5 in construction a long time. They take care of stuff,
6 you know, really go overboard in most cases, I think.

7 But somebody maybe could ask me why don't
8 they get water out of the Gulf. That's my biggest
9 concern, you know. I think it will help everybody.
10 All right.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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JOHN M. WARD

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John M. Ward of Lucedale. My main comment was about the environmental conditions around the river should leakage with the salt occur. And as an alternative for the salt taken out, why don't they take it and ship it up north to keep the snow off the streets and everything. Okay.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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JIM CORLEY

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My name is Jim Corley, and my primary concern was the drawdown scenario where you lose flexibility to schedule the drawdown. If the President says do it, you have to do it. And if that occurs during a low, exceptionally low period of flow in the river, it presents difficulties, is the way I see it. So I think those -- that issue needs to be addressed in kind of a formal manner so you have plans in place as to what happens when you draw down and don't have the flexibility of time. Okay.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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BILLY COPELAND

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My name is Billy Copeland. I'm from Greene County. My comments are the water consumption, the intake from the Pascagoula River for -- for mining, I guess would be the word, of the caverns.

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I would like to see, or I would like for it to be considered that possibly a dam be built on the Pascagoula River that would maintain a water level in the Chickasawhay and leave the river. It would have less effect, in my opinion, on the -- on the farming and the -- and the sports, the fishing, and so forth. I would also like to have it considered that, instead of using fresh water, that the -- that the water be pumped from the Gulf and then back to the Gulf for distribution.

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I know that that has been mentioned somewhere in the past, and I know it costs more money or capital to do it and a little more energy cost to do it. But I think that would have a valuable effect on the fresh water coming down -- down the Pascagoula River. And I think that's all I have to say. Thank you.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 ODIS BEECH

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5 I'd rather they would use saltwater for the
6 primary and use -- use the Pascagoula River as a
7 secondary. To me, that would make better sense,
8 because during the winter months, you could get
9 probably a lot of it out of the Pascagoula River.

10 During the summer, it would really do
11 damage to it when it's real low. And that's all. To
12 me, that would make better sense than anything else.

13 I know they're talking about letting water
14 out of the reservoir up on the other side of
15 Waynesboro up in that region somewhere, but I don't
16 know.

17 Most of the time when we've -- when we've
18 got dry weather, they've got dry weather, too. I
19 don't know what kind of level they've got on that
20 reservoir. But normally, the Leaf River and the
21 Pascagoula and the Chickasawhay are low at the same
22 time. They hardly get a big rain enough to raise the
23 river in New Augusta. I don't know where that thing
24 starts. I'm familiar with Chickasawhay. It starts up
25 around Waynesboro, but -- unless it rains a whole

1 bunch in what they call the river basin.

2 Now, if we get a nationwide, like, say, a
3 hundred-mile radius of rain like we got here a week
4 ago, we wouldn't have no problem. But you don't know
5 when you're going to get one of those. You may get
6 more than you need.

7 I've got a camp on the Pascagoula River,
8 and that's the reason I'm interested. But back when
9 they had Georgia Pacific in New Augusta, they told us
10 it would not affect anything, but they was wrong on
11 that, ever who done those negotiations. It ruined the
12 river for four or five years. But they've sold out to
13 somebody else now. They -- they don't seem to have as
14 much trouble now. But for awhile you couldn't even
15 get on the sandbar. It turned to a gold color when
16 the water was up. What it was doing was letting that
17 dioxin dye, or what they got was letting out at night
18 and nobody knew about it.

19 They were supposed to have a holding tank
20 for it, you know, a big pond, and take tests on it and
21 then let it out when it's right. But if they'd get in
22 a hurry, they'd let it out when they wanted to.
23 That's about all I've got. Thank you.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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GLEN HARVISON

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Well, I just want to know, do the people that's pushing this thing, have you all ever been to the river in July and August on the Pascagoula River? You can wade across it and never get up to your behind, I guarantee. It will get so low, you can wade it anywhere you want to.

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And I can't see putting that much, taking that much water out of it a day. How many gallons? I'd like to see them put a dam down there somewhere and control the water.

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If you go down there now, you can't even catch a fish on it. I'm not -- I'm not for that. I don't care about the salt dome. We're not going to get no money out of it here.

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I worked in the oil fields eight years. I worked down there in the late '70s and '80s when they said there was a shortage of oil. You could see them clouds burning every day, seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, burning that oil because they had the storage tanks full. Thank you.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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WILL HOLLAND

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My name is Will Holland, and I strongly oppose
this. I really do. I strongly oppose it because we
don't have the water in the Pascagoula River to do it.

I've fished that river for seventy-two years, and I
know there ain't that much water in there. That's all
I've got to say.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 FAYE HOLYFIELD
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5 Faye Holyfield, and I am concerned about our
6 Pascagoula River because it is one of the last scenic
7 and undisturbed rivers in the lower forty-eight, and
8 so I'm interested in what impact this will have on our
9 freshwater river and also its surroundings. Thank
10 you.
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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 LISA JOLY

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5 I've been a life-long resident of Jackson County
6 and George County. They are right next to each other.

7 I think this is a terrible idea. I think that people
8 should be exploring other avenues of renewable
9 resources like hydrogen.

10 Does anybody know that we're in a drought?
11 Does everybody forget that word? I mean, Atlanta just
12 cut how much water going to Florida for something that
13 didn't even need to be growing? If they needed it
14 that bad, they should have put it in an aquarium
15 somewhere.

16 I think that they're wasting the
17 taxpayers' money. We're never going to be finished
18 paying for this project, and it's not going to do what
19 it's set up to do. It's not.

20 If they're -- if they're going to pull
21 water out of the river, then they ought to have a
22 machine there to make the water potable again and pump
23 it right back. And if they're not going to make it
24 potable again, then they should leave it alone.

25 And if they can expand the other

1 facilities that they have now, expand those facilities
2 that are already up and running and leave Mississippi
3 out of it. We're in a drought. It's so unnecessary
4 to waste the money, as far as I'm concerned, and I
5 think it's a waste of everybody's money.

6 It's not going to help nothing. This
7 project is never going to be paid for. It's going to
8 be costing the taxpayers money forever. And then if
9 they decide they need to expand on it, it's just --
10 it's a Catch 22. But I don't think that they should
11 -- it's -- it's not going to help our country any.
12 I just can't see it helping our country any.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 GERALD SCOGGINS

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5 My name is Gerald Scoggins, and I would like to
6 know if they have looked at a low head down on the
7 river to increase the water level in the river as an
8 alternative. This would be both beneficial to the
9 local people, and it would be beneficial to DOE for
10 their reservoir. And I am for the project. That's
11 all of my comments. Thank you, ma'am.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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CHAD WELFORD

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I don't think the Pascagoula and Chickasawhay River can support this because, currently, Chevron is having to purchase water to supply their needs during the drought in the summertime.

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And we have land on the river, and you can currently walk across the river during the summertime. So, you know, if you take more water out of it -- I can walk across three or four foot depth of water. You know, I just don't think that the people of George County is ready for the water level dropping lower. We're struggling enough with the drought, much less the federal government taking more water out of the rivers. I think the Gulf Coast, intercostal waterway, would be a lot better source for a water level. That's all I've got to say.

1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 DAGO MAPLES: (Via telephone)

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5 I'm from George County over here on the west
6 side of the Pascagoula River, and I stated to him that
7 my concern is why not have a level in the river, to
8 not take any water once it gets to that level.

9 In other words, there should be a stated
10 level of water that everybody agrees upon not to take
11 the river any lower than whatever the level is agreed
12 upon by whoever has that authority.

13 And, of course, the resolution that was
14 presented in the George County Times, the resolution
15 that the County Board Supervisor at the George County
16 Times stated was that they were opposed to this salt
17 dome operation. And I was just kind of voicing my
18 opinion that it should have some limitation but still
19 let it go.

20 And I had a concern to him, why are you
21 getting out good salt? Why not pile it up and save it
22 for a later time? And he said that they investigated
23 it, possibly, or it could be done, and then there
24 would be no need for the fresh water. So I don't know
25 what the problem would be, but I'm just sitting over

1 here thinking a little bit about the thing. That was
2 mostly my concern with it.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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ERIC RICHARDS

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Eric Richards, and I do represent the Gulf Conservation Coalition. We do have some concerns about the methods -- methods being proposed for the -- for the site construction. We're not opposed to the SPR itself. And the group I represent would love to see this done and done in the right way such that we're not impacting the environment and we're not creating some negative economic issues as well.

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Even though we know the project overall is a very big positive economic project for the state, we'd like to make sure there are not the negative economics that go along with it which we think can occur in the surrounding part of the state.

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Ultimately, what we would like to see is that the project go forward and that everybody come away feeling like they got exactly what they were hoping for, the people of the community looking out and seeing that they've not lost environmental resources, economic issues, and that the folks at the Department of Energy have -- go away with an SPR at Richton and are able to say that we did this in an

1 environmentally-friendly way and the economic
2 development folks in Mississippi say, look, we brought
3 in a full billion dollar project.

4 Now, the concerns -- the concerns that we
5 have primarily go in four directions. One is a raw
6 water intake from the Pascagoula River system, whether
7 it be at Leaf River or at the Pascagoula River,
8 Merrill.

9 There is a large concern that taking an
10 additional fairly large volume of water from that
11 river system, combined with the large volumes of water
12 already being taken from the river system for our
13 industrial needs, could have some impact on the
14 ecology of the river from a number of different
15 directions; saltwater intrusion, lower water levels,
16 and the unknowns of how much impact that is. That's
17 one concern.

18 The second concern is the brine disposal
19 of the Gulf of Mexico, increasing salinity levels,
20 causing damage to the marine life in the surrounding
21 waters. We've seen damage just recently. We've just
22 recently seen damage in our nearby waters in adjacent
23 Alabama from higher salinities naturally occurring
24 because of the low river flows from the drought that
25 we're in -- we're in the middle of, and also a -- a

1 cut in one of the barrier islands that occurred from
2 Katrina, allowing more saltwater into the -- the
3 Sound.

4 It raised the salinity levels to a point
5 where they've now lost virtually all of their oyster
6 reefs in that entire area, which was once a very
7 productive oyster-production area. The biologists
8 have been there in the last couple of months
9 determining the extent of the damage, and they found
10 that it's almost completely wiped out.

11 And it was entirely due to the increased
12 salinity levels, not directly killing the oysters, but
13 that the entire salinity has changed the ecology,
14 allowing oyster drills, the enemies of the oysters, to
15 move into the area and kill the oysters.

16 Where normally the oyster drills are kept
17 away by the freshwater inputs, our salinity levels
18 allowed them to -- to move in, basically change the
19 environment, a naturally-occurring event concerning
20 Mississippi.

21 Again, back to the brine disposal, that's
22 just one of the items that we think has a potential of
23 accelerating the salinity levels and causing things
24 just of this nature.

25 The brine disposal pipeline, another

1 concern because of the length, the hundred miles from
2 Richton down to the diffuser sites, the potential for
3 brine spills is also a very large concern. And that
4 stems from looking at the statistics from the existing
5 four sites, SPR sites, Louisiana and Texas.

6 In the Department of Energy's
7 Environmental Impact Statement, it indicates -- well,
8 it shows a twenty-year history of brine spills from
9 those four sites. It shows the total volume of
10 spills, and it shows the number of spills. And when
11 you divide the volume of spills by the number of
12 spills, you find that it averages two hundred
13 eighty-two thousand gallons per spill.

14 The DOE in that same Environmental Impact
15 Statement on the adjacent page to the brine spill
16 history also predicts fifty-six spills from this brine
17 disposal pipeline. So that's a huge concern.

18 If we have fifty-six spills and they are
19 anywhere near the magnitude of what the average spill
20 size was at the four existing sites, any one of those
21 by themselves will be a horrendous, you know, could
22 have a huge impact. But fifty-six of those would be
23 even worse.

24 That, coupled with the fact that the --
25 the Environmental Impact Statement from 1992 for that

1 same Richton site predicted in that brine disposal
2 line that there would be two spills of at least three
3 million gallons, obviously, technology has improved
4 since '92 till now; but to be able to say that there
5 are not going to be any huge spills like were
6 predicted fifteen years ago, I don't know if our
7 technology has improved that much. That's three.

8 The fourth -- fourth concern is the
9 location of the tank form at the terminal in
10 Pascagoula. The tank forms, according to the plan, is
11 forty-nine acres in size. It's currently to be
12 located on a deep water -- waterfront site in Jackson
13 County. And the Department of Energy predicts that --
14 and the EIS, it talks about ten jobs, ten permanent
15 jobs. I just -- just found out that it may be, you
16 know, a few more, twenty jobs or more. The concern
17 there is that that property is much more valuable than
18 ten jobs or twenty jobs.

19 I work at a site almost next door to where
20 one of the proposed sites is. We operate on sixty
21 acres, not much more than the forty-nine acres. We've
22 had twelve hundred employees on our site.

23 One of the proposed sites for this tank
24 form is actually on an -- an industrial site that
25 covers ninety acres. They've had almost five thousand

1 employees on that ninety acres. So to give up a
2 forty-nine acre site in that area for ten or twenty
3 jobs when that same site could hold five hundred or a
4 thousand jobs is not a good deal for the county. So
5 those are the four concerns.

6 I'd like to offer some suggestions. On
7 the raw water intake, doing a little studying, it
8 appears that pulling water from the Mississippi River
9 might be a viable option. And even though it's a much
10 further distance than the Merrill intake site, there
11 is already -- part of the plan is to provide a
12 distribution pipeline from Richton to Liberty which
13 wouldn't be used until after the dome is developed and
14 filled with petroleum.

15 What I would like to propose as an option
16 is to make that line large enough to be able to handle
17 raw water and extend it from Liberty over into the
18 Mississippi River, use it during the site
19 development. And then once the site is developed,
20 then you can use it for the whole distribution into
21 the Caplin pipeline.

22 The U.S. Geodetic Survey shows figures
23 that the average -- average annual flow rate of the
24 Mississippi River at that point in the river is
25 roughly six hundred times the average annual flow rate

1 in the Pascagoula River at Merrill.

2 So taking that much water out of the
3 Mississippi River shouldn't have any impact,
4 virtually, at least compared to what it would have in
5 the Pascagoula River. So we think that's an option
6 for the raw water intake.

7 The brine disposal, actually to eliminate
8 the second and third concern, and that was the
9 disposal and the -- the spill potentials, and that is
10 to dispose of the brine via deep well injection
11 somewhere in the vicinity of Richton, wherever the --
12 the deep strata is suitable, even if it has to be
13 several sites.

14 In other words, if one site is not
15 completely suitable, multiple sites might be an
16 option. It -- it -- it greatly reduces the length of
17 the pipeline which eliminates a lot of the spill
18 potential. It completely eliminates the potential for
19 increase in salinity down in the Gulf waters.

20 It was an option that was considered back
21 in '92 for Richton. So at least at one time it was
22 considered a viable option there. It was used, deep
23 well injection was used at two of the existing four
24 sites. So we -- we think that at least it should be
25 looked at as a -- as a potential option and because it

1 could -- it could really eliminate quite a few of the
2 -- the potential detrimental effects.

3 The fourth concern was the tank form
4 location. I think that's a real easy one to fix.
5 Move the tank form site inland one or two or three
6 miles somewhere directly upline of the pipeline that
7 will be running down into the county anyway.

8 I'm sure there will be some added costs
9 for pumping from the terminal, the dock space, which
10 would still have to be somewhere in the county port
11 area, but that could be accomplished fairly easily,
12 but move the tank form inland.

13 Even though you incur some additional
14 costs for pumping, you might actually save some money
15 because now you've moved inland and you don't have to
16 have as much to worry about for hurricane protection
17 for those tanks, meaning things like dikes and dams or
18 raising the area to situate the tanks on.

19 We think about things like the -- the huge
20 oil spill just south of New Orleans after Katrina
21 which virtually wiped out one whole town because one
22 tank, one oil storage tank, shifted off its foundation
23 about thirty feet and dumped the -- the -- the
24 contents of the tank and then -- and then coated all
25 those homes, not only with saltwater -- coated not

1 only the homes with saltwater but with petroleum. And
2 they were not able to rebuild.

3 That could happen here unless the proper
4 protection was -- was performed for those tanks. So
5 moving inland actually helps in that regard and may
6 save some money.

7 So those -- so those, we feel, are some
8 options that could be done. And in the end, back to
9 what I said initially, everybody walks away smiling.
10 SPR happens in Richton. The environment has minimal
11 impact. The negative economics in the southern part
12 of the state are reduced to -- to no -- no negatives,
13 I guess. And I'd like to add that we do appreciate
14 the Department of Energy coming down and hearing the
15 comments and taking another look at the plans. We're
16 very appreciative of that. Thank you.

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1 Verbal statement on the record by:

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3 KELLY WRIGHT

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5 My questions are what stage of the river's level
6 are they going to call the stage where they're not
7 going to -- okay. On the river stage, they say
8 they're not going to drop it more than an inch when
9 it's low. What's -- what's going to be the deciding
10 factor of the stage of the river, and how -- how long
11 will it take them to cut the water off when it is an
12 inch low?

13 The other question is, and I'm sure
14 they're looking into it, the amount of water that
15 Chevron already takes out of the river, Mississippi
16 Power, and then the new addition that Chevron is
17 building is going to require more water and -- already
18 when the river is low and they're pulling that water
19 out. They're having to pay some of the reservoirs to
20 dump water into the river. So they're looking at
21 that, too, as an alternative to where they're going to
22 have water dumped in that will be available from the
23 reservoirs to take out?

24 Other questions would be the studies. Are
25 they going to do the studies on the tributaries

1 leading into the river, what effect it will have on
2 those waterways when they pull that level down to an
3 inch lower than the low stage. And that will do it.
4 THE COMMENTS CONCLUDED AT 8:01 P.M.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ALABAMA:

COUNTY OF MOBILE:

I do hereby certify that the above and foregoing transcript of proceedings in the matter aforementioned was taken down by me in machine shorthand, and the questions and answers thereto were reduced to writing under my personal supervision, and that the foregoing represents a true and correct transcript of the proceedings given by said witness upon said hearing.

I further certify that I am neither of counsel nor of kin to the parties to the action, nor am I anywise interested in the result of said cause.

Linda S. Crowder, RPR/CCR-462

Registered Professional Reporter